

Hawaii MARINE

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Sun sets on seven-year project

Sgt. Robert Carlson
Press Chief

Survivors of the Battle of Iwo Jima joined other veterans, federal, state and local officials, and other distinguished guests gathered inside the front gate of MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Saturday, to witness the dedication of the Pacific War Memorial.

The statue portion of the monument is a replica of the Iwo Jima Memorial in Newington, Conn., and depicts the second flag raising, made famous by Associated Press Photographer Joe Rosenthal, atop Mount Suribachi on Feb. 23, 1945.

The base of the monument is a tribute to everyone who participated in the Battle of Iwo Jima, including the people of Maui and the Big Island, who hosted the 4th and 5th Marine Divisions as they trained in Hawaii for the assault on Iwo Jima.

"Marine Corps Base Hawaii is honored to have been selected as the site for this prestigious memorial," said Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general, MCB Hawaii. "It is a tribute to all those who served in the Pacific theater of operations during World War II, and to the



Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.

THE PACIFIC WAR MEMORIAL

civilian population here in Hawaii who supported these forces during the war."

The dedication event was the culmination of more than seven years of work and commitment by

the Pacific War Memorial Association, and the monument honors all who served in the Pacific the-

ater.

Alice Clark, chair of the Pacific War Memorial Association, has worked closely with the National Iwo Jima Survivors Association to bring the Pacific War Memorial to Hawaii. The PWMA is a non-profit organization and has gifted the monument to the United States Marine Corps.

Several Battle of Iwo Jima survivors attended the ceremony, as did veterans of other wars, state and civic leaders, and retired Marine Corps Col. Harvey C. Barnum Jr., who is currently serving as deputy assistant secretary of the Navy for reserve affairs.

Barnum, who received the Medal of Honor during action in Vietnam, was the keynote speaker for the dedication. He said he was honored to be a part of dedicating a monument that recognizes the sacrifices made by so many of our nation's men and women.

A "Walkway of Honor" will soon be installed around the base of the monument and will include the names of Iwo Jima survivors, veterans, family members, and others who have supported the memorial.

Domestic violence victims receive aid

Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.
Combat Correspondent

Family members of service personnel who have fallen victim to domestic violence are eligible for financial assistance through the Transition Compensation Program.

The TCP is designed to provide financial compensation to abused family members of service personnel who have been separated or discharged from military service because of domestic violence.

One of the main reasons the program was designed was to help an individual start a new life apart from the abuse.

"The program is designed not to victimize the abused again by penalizing them financially for reporting the abuse in the first place," said Arlene McCormack, program manager for MCCS Family Advocacy.

Family members can receive monthly payments from 12 to 36

See TCP, A-4

CMC discusses Corps' future during K-Bay stop

Within a quick six hours, Gen. Jones reviews major base improvements

Sgt. Roman Yurek
Sports Editor

The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James L. Jones, made a one-day visit to MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, March 14 to speak with base personnel and view some of the recent improvements made to the base.

General Jones was returning from a trip to commemorate the 57th anniversary of the battle at Iwo Jima on the island that was the site of one of the bloodiest battles during World War II.

While making his way across the Pacific, he took time from his busy schedule to visit K-Bay.

His first stop after having lunch with the commanding general of MCB Hawaii, Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, was an award ceremony at Dewey Square.

Nearly all of the 8,000 personnel on base were in attendance to recognize the Base Safety Center for earning the first ever Marine

Corps Base Excellence Award.

Following the ceremony, Gen. Jones toured some of the living quarters on base, from family housing to bachelor enlisted quarters.

Some of the housing facilities included the new houses along Cochran Street, built two years ago, and the area currently being constructed.

The commandant also stepped into Barracks 7046. This is the most recent addition to barracks on the base and is occupied by 1st Radio Bn.

After seeing where the personnel on base are living, it was time for Gen. Jones to speak to those working and living on base.

This took the commandant nearly across base to Hanger 104, home of Patrol Squadron 9 "Golden Eagles."

The squadron recently returned from Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"I must congratulate you for a job well done," said Gen. Jones to the Golden Eagles.

He expressed his admiration for the unit's support in the Middle East, as well as the need for unity between the Marine

Corps and Navy.

After the commandant spoke to the Sailors, Cmdr. Thomas Lally, commander of VP-9, presented him with an American Flag.

What made this flag significant was that it was raised in Afghanistan during the time that the squadron was engaged in

support missions for Operation Enduring Freedom.

The commandant's next stop was at the base theater to brief senior leaders of the base.

He spoke about the recent successes of the Marine Corps' expeditionary capabilities, as well as

See CMC, A-5



Cpl. Simon D. Martin

Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James L. Jones, addressed MCB Hawaii Marines and Sailors during his visit. Among other things, the commandant stressed the importance of Operational Risk Management.

Commandant presents the Excellence Award to Base Safety Center

Lance Cpl. Jason E. Miller
Combat Correspondent

"Nothing is as important to the future of our Corps than operational risk management. You are an example for the rest of the Marine Corps," said Gen. James L. Jones, Commandant of the Marine Corps, during a ceremony held March 15, at Dewey Square, aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, where he presented the Marine Corps Base Excellence Award to the Base Safety Center here.

This was the first time that this new award has ever been presented to an installation.

General Jones and Sergeant Major of the

See SAFETY, A-5



SMSP: Liberty Bus travels to Waikiki, Fort Derussy

Marines and Sailors, don't take a chance with your life and someone else's by driving drunk. Use the MCB Hawaii Liberty Bus on Friday and Saturday nights for your night on the town in Waikiki. The Liberty Bus runs continuously, leaving Kaneohe Bay starting at 6 p.m. The last run leaves Fort Derussy in Waikiki at 3 a.m.

Contact your command's SM&SP representative to get more information.

The SM&SP has several major events coming up in the months ahead. Paintball is available every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and every Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. The next interservice paintball tournament will be on Saturday,

April 20, and teams can sign up until April 18.

The Spring Flag Football Classic is scheduled for Saturday, April 13 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, and the SM&SP is registering 10-person teams, with two substitutes, for \$15 per team.

Call 254-7593, for more on SM&SP programs.

MCBH NEWS
BRIEFS

DEFY NEEDS MENTORS

What is DEFY? DEFY is a unique, comprehensive, one-year program for youth 9 to 12 years old. The program helps reduce risk factors that scientific research has directly linked to adolescent alcohol and drug abuse, school failure, delinquency and violence.

The program delivers leadership and life skills training for youth, by teaching team building, conflict resolution, age-appropriate goal setting and self-confidence skills.

The office is looking for men and women, whether military or civilian, to serve as mentors. Besides assisting with positive role modeling and leadership, mentors enjoy many activities with youth such as luaus, whale watching, water sports and more. All that’s required is your time and dedication.

A minimum of 15 mentors are needed by May 31.

If you’re interested in getting involved in the lives of youth, call Daryl Picadura, program coordinator at the Provost Marshals Office, at 257-2103, ext. 313.

BELLOWS EASTER

Bellows Air Force Station will host a family Easter Celebration, March 31 at 6:15 a.m., at Pavilion 5A.

Chaplain Andrew Johnson will lead guests in a praise and worship Sunrise Service.

Directly after worship, American Eatery will offer a special breakfast.

At 8:30 a.m., an Easter Egg Hunt and activities for children 14 and under will be held, including photos with the Easter Bunny and a bouncy castle.

Children’s activities are free, and the mini golf course will offer a family discount.

For more details, call 259-4112.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Saturday: Roman Catholic Mass at 5 p.m.

Sunday (Palm Sunday): Roman Catholic Mass at 9:30 a.m.; Protestant Services at 8 and 11 a.m.

Tuesday: Catholic Penance at 7 p.m.

Thursday (Holy Thursday): Roman Catholic Mass at 5 p.m.; Protestant Service at 6:30 p.m.

March 29 (Good Friday): Roman Catholic “Stations of the Cross” at 12 p.m.; Solemn Good Friday Service at 5 p.m.; Protestant Good Friday Service at 2 p.m.

March 30 (Holy Saturday): Roman Catholic Vigil Mass at 5 p.m.

March 31 (Easter Sunday): Easter Sunrise Service at 6 a.m. at the Rifle Range; Roman Catholic Mass at 9:30 a.m.; Protestant Services at 8 and 11 a.m.

The Base Chapel is in Bldg. 1090.

Hawaii
MARINE

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Public Affairs Chief
Press Chief
Managing Editor
Sports Editor

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Maj. Chris Hughes
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To contact the MCB Hawaii Public Affairs Office use the following addresses:

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C.G.’s MAIL BOX

‘Housing should be offered as it becomes available, not by rank.’

- Submitted by Jeanne L. McGuire, family member



BRIG. GEN.
MCABEE



Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.

The new Cochran housing area is scheduled for completion this summer and is part of an ongoing effort to improve all housing and bachelor enlisted quarters aboard MCB Hawaii.

“I would first like to commend you on your offer to receive input from the community. How nice it is to feel that someone is actually listening.

I have lived aboard MCBH for the past six years and have to say that the base improvements are remarkable. However, I have been here long enough to see that some area’s need major improvement.

My main concern, among other things, is the Housing Office. My experience when I first moved to Hawaii was this: We were assigned TLA (*temporary lodging allowance*) here on base, and we stayed there for about 10 days.

We were offered housing in what is known as Cochran housing area. (This area has since been demolished). My husband was a sergeant at the time, and we have two children.

After some convincing, the housing assistant let us know the address of the home. The home that we were offered was horrible. Based on the thought that we could not be offered anything worse, we declined and asked for something better. Once the decline was confirmed, we were told that we were responsible for paying for the TLF because we declined.

We were then offered a better house in the Cape Hart area, with a wonderful view and large yard. The problem I have with this is that house number 1 was not going to be ready until a week **after** house number 2. Yet, I was offered house number 1 first.

It made me feel like we were being scammed into paying for our TLF. Housing obviously knew house number 2 was available sooner. This did not make sense to me at all.

The next thing is this: I understand that the higher ranking you are entitles you to a certain number of bedrooms such as a staff sergeant rates a 3 bedroom. However, I don’t see the need for a married staff sergeant and no kids to rate a 3 bedroom when there are those that have several kids waiting on the list in a rank that is only entitled to a 2 bedroom.

I don’t understand why we have empty housing aboard the base when we have so many people on the waiting lists.

My solution is this: A major investigation into the housing practices is necessary. Housing needs to be revamped and policies changed.

The base housing assignment “ritual” is very stressful, and everyone I have talked to has had some issue dealing with them. Things are very secretive and you are not even allowed to view a home before accepting or declining. Nowhere in the civilian sector would you be offered a home before viewing it.

The system needs improvement, and housing should be offered as it becomes available, not by rank, but by need. Three bedrooms for childless families is excessive, in my opinion.

My next request, or observation, is this: Hawaii is a great place to live and be outside. I would like to suggest a cemented jogging trail, large enough for strollers and bikes throughout the base and housing areas. Landscaping and views of the mountains and ocean would be a delight, not to mention the safety of our family members not being on the street. Traffic would move more effectively and exercising would be much more pleasurable.

I would also recommend that this area be used for recreational fitness and not PT (*physical training*); this would keep family members out of the Marines’/Sailors’ way going to the back gate and would still allow for a safe area for fitness. This would also keep family members out of traffic’s way in the evening hours when sight is limited.

Thank you Sir, for your consideration in these matters.”

Dear Ms. McGuire,

I have been asked by the commanding general to research and to reply to your email of Jan. 30, since your recommendations fall within my staff responsibility. He appreciates your participation in this program.

The commanding general agrees with you that providing appropriate and adequate housing is important. Housing units aboard the base are divided by rank and bedroom size. Each grade category has two, three, and four bedroom units allocated to them.

Our Family Housing Department currently manages over 400 two-bedroom units for enlisted families. All but 48 of these two-bedroom units have been allocated to junior enlisted personnel.

Accordingly, staff noncommissioned officers are usually offered a minimum of three bedrooms unless they voluntarily accept one of the few available two-bedroom units. Someone is always offered a house based upon their position on their grade category’s waiting list, not their rank. If an appropriate number bedroom house becomes available in another category, and there is no one on that waiting list available to accept it, it is offered in accordance with Marine Corps policy to the next available applicant on another list. This happens from time to time and does result in families without children being offered three-bedroom units.

As you know, after receiving housing counseling from one of our Family Housing counselors, an applicant is placed on the appropriate housing list. When it is their turn, as described above, they will be given an address by their counselor.

Once an address is provided to an applicant, it is considered an official offer. The applicant has 24 hours to accept or decline the offer. The applicant may always view the offer: If the house is empty, they can go and see the house; if the house is occupied, they can coordinate with the present occupants.

If the applicant rejects the first offer, their TLA entitlement will end. Once an applicant rejects a second offer, they are removed from the list.

Additionally, you recommended a cemented jogging trail. Currently, the base is pursuing an initiative to provide a running path around the Nu’upia Ponds. I believe this is exactly the sort of thing you have suggested.

The commanding general has committed to ensuring its development for our Marines and their families. You should be reading more about this project in upcoming editions of our base newspaper, the *Hawaii Marine*.

Thank you, again, for your input.

Sincerely,
Mr. Kent Murata
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4

The commanding general invites input from the base community via C.G. Mail on the following topics: What are we doing that we shouldn’t be doing? What are we not doing that we should be doing? What are we doing that we should be doing better?

Responses should include a recommendation that will help solve the problem and must include your name and return address so that staff may respond.

For more information about how to send C.G. Mail, see the MCB Hawaii C.G. Mail page at www.mcbh.usmc.mil/command/cgmail.htm.

EOD offers hands-on munitions class

Units, individual servicemembers may visit, request on-site classes

Story and Photos by
Sgt. Richard W.
Holtgraver Jr.
Combat Correspondent

Commanding officers and staff noncommissioned officers aboard MCB Hawaii have a little known, but motivating educational tool at their disposal, which can be used to train Marines here on base.

The tools are inside a building, in a room where literally hundreds of inert munitions are kept in pristine condition. The room is a library, but looks like a museum and houses munitions that were once used for destruction.

Covered wall-to-wall with defused ordnance, the munitions range from cluster bombs to mines, from grenades to artillery shells. Their purpose is to teach,

rather than destroy.

The Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit maintains the library. Its EOD building is located across the flightline, in Bldg. 605, and can be easily identified by the silver, cutaway missile located at its front entrance.

"Actually, (the room) is referred to as a training aids library," explained Staff Sgt. David A. Alexander, an explosive ordnance disposal technician.

One of the unique aspects of the EOD library is its collection of foreign ordnance and weapons.

If a unit wanted to train its Marines on how to field strip and properly operate an AK-47 combat assault rifle, it could check out several of the rifles in the EOD library inventory.

"Or, if they request it, we will come and give the classes to them," said Alexander.

Recently, many of the classes the EOD unit has been giving are in direct response to the terrorist



Sgt. John W. Hermann, a machine gunner from 2nd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, checks out the sighting system on a Russian Rocket Propelled Grenade launcher.

events of Sept. 11.

"Part of our mission, as it stands right now, is dealing with a lot of force protection issues," said Alexander. "We're giving a lot of classes to the Security Augmentation Force at the Provost Marshal's Office.

"We give them classes on vehicle search techniques and improvised explosive devices."

The Marine Corps is the only branch of military service allowed to keep inert ordnance pieces for the pur-

poses of training and technical intelligence gathering, according to Alexander.

The Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit also spends a considerable portion of its time training with ordnance disposal units from different branches of the armed forces, making the library a unique and valuable asset for still other ordnance units.

For more information on the EOD library, or to take advantage of classes offered, call 257-7112.



Above and below — Hermann checks the sights of an AK47 combat assault rifle, then looks at a mortar in the library. Right — An overview of the EOD training aids library reveals a variety of munitions.



Tax Center returns better numbers

Monday thru Friday:
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Wednesdays:
7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.

Sergeant Michael J. Schmidt, a fire direction controlman for Headquarters Battery, 1/12, helps Sgt. Dale J. Green, an engine mechanic for Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24, with an adjustment to his taxes.

Sgt. Richard W.
Holtgraver Jr.
Combat Correspondent

There is less than a month for all Marines, Sailors and their family members to file their income taxes before the April 15 deadline.

The MCB Hawaii Tax Center wants everyone aboard the base to know its doors are open and its services are free.

For the past two months, the 13 Marines and one Sailor working at the Tax Center have assisted thousands of people filing their federal and state tax claims.

"My goal is to get 100

percent of the base population in here to get their taxes done," said Capt. Mario J. Russica, MCB Hawaii Tax Center commanding officer.

The Tax Center has prepared more than 4,300 tax returns this year, and more than 4,200 of those returns were filed electronically — with refunds totaling more than \$4,430,000.

If the Tax Center continues to conduct business at its current pace, it is well on its way to breaking last year's number of 5,800 returns.

The Tax Center has saved Marines, Sailors

and their families, so far this year, an estimated amount of more than \$430,000.

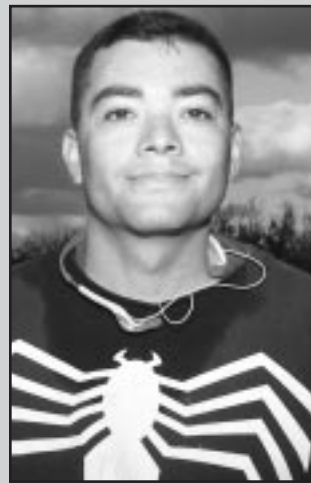
"My biggest plea right now to leadership aboard MCB Hawaii is to push Marines to take advantage of the services the Tax Center has to offer, as opposed to going out in town to have them done," said Russica. "I believe we provide just as good a service, if not better, as our competitors out in town."

The Tax Center is located in Bldg. 455 on Lawrence Road, next to the 7-Day Store.

Make an appointment at the Tax Center by calling 257-1026.

WORD ON THE STREET

"What do you think of the new Pacific War Memorial?"



"I like it. I think it adds historic credibility to the base."

Staff Sgt. Peter Gonzales
Computer technician
1st Radio Bn.

"To me, it lifts my spirits knowing that we're honoring those Marines who have gone before us."

Staff Sgt. Juan Ynfante
Company gunnery sergeant, Supply Co., CSSG-3



"I can't think of a more significant gift the donors could have given to the base and the community. It's a gift that can pass from one generation to the next."

Larry M. Hilding
Director, Human Resources Office, MCB Hawaii

"Personally, I think every base should have a memorial to the Marines who served in that battle."

Gunnery Sgt. Freddy Patrick
Intelligence chief
Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii



"When I think of the memorial, it reminds me of all the Marines who gave their lives during that battle. It kind of gets me right in the heart."

Lance Cpl. Niki K. Scholl
Motor transport operator
Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii

IWO JIMA: PART THREE



National Archive Photos

Above left and right — With their landing craft crippled in the surf below, leathernecks of the 5th Marine Division inch their way up toward Mount Suribachi. It only took five days for the Marines to fight their way up to the tallest peak on the island.

Two veterans remember the battlefield



“It was such an unknown for us, before we hit the land.”

Dr. Billy Pate
A former Marine cryptographer in World War II



Official U.S.M.C. Photo

Joe Rosenthal, an AP photographer, immortalized images of Iwo Jima.

TCP, From A-1

months, which can be used for living expenses such as food, clothing, housing and other necessities. In addition to support payments, TCP recipients can

maintain their medical benefits and Marine Corps Community Services privileges.

Those who are eligible for compensation must meet certain criteria to qualify for TCP. Four main characteristics gov-

ern who can apply. Those people who were married to, or were a family member while residing in the home of a now-separated servicemember when the offense occurred may apply. The servicemember must have

served at least 30 days on active duty, and the servicemember had to be convicted of family member abuse, administratively separated, discharged by court martial, or received forfeiture of all pay and allowances

for such abuse. The servicemember’s separation must have occurred after Nov. 29, 1993.

Contact the servicemember’s commanding officer, Personal Services or the Staff Judge Advocate for more details.

From the 5th Marine Division: A 27th Marines leatherneck, a 13th Marines chaplain
Both faced the unknown, both witnessed the Mt. Suribachi flag raising

Lance Cpl. Jason E. Miller
Combat Correspondent

Their reputations preceded them as their accomplishments of fighting and surviving one of the greatest battles in history had already inspired the Marines they would greet. Two heroes of the greatest generation, both veterans of the historic Battle of Iwo Jima, were welcomed aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, March 11, to speak and share experiences with Marines and Sailors, and then pay homage to their former combat companions during the dedication of the Pacific War Memorial.

Doctor Billy Pate, a former Marine cryptographer, and Dr. John Galbreath, a former Navy chaplain, both took time out of their schedules to work with Marines from the Combat Visual Information Center at K-Bay on an on-camera interview set to air on the base cable channel later this month.

Pate, a Dos Palos, Calif. native, was a 19-year-old private first class with 27th Marine Regiment, 5th Marine Division, when the U.S. Marines invaded the island of Iwo Jima Feb. 19, 1945.

“It was such an unknown for us, before we hit the land. I can remember that just about everybody seemed ready, but no one really knew what to expect once we got there.

“We could tell it was bad, because there were already Marines on the shore when we arrived. We could see what was happening to them before we were on the island.”

Pate talked on about the ensuing battle as emotion began to well up in his eyes. One moment vividly stood out in his mind, as he re-

called a time when he was almost killed by an artillery shell.

“I moved a few yards inland and hid in a small indentation, not a hole but an indentation. Just as I got there, a shell exploded right above me. I could hear my sergeant calling for me. Just that little indentation was all that kept me from being hit.”

During the interview, he also recalled the memory of the historic flag raising that took place atop Mt. Suribachi.

“That was one of the greatest memories of my life. I looked up, and the flag was waving. You talk about joy.

“That was great joy. “Until then, the Japanese had literally plastered us from Mt. Suribachi. We knew that from that point on, they could no longer hit us from the back side,” he explained.

John Galbreath, who was a 24-year-old lieutenant junior grade in the U.S. Navy, also hit the shore that historic day with the Marines from 13th Marine Regiment, 5th Marine Division.

As a chaplain, his job was quite different from Pate’s, as he explained.

“Being a chaplain on Iwo Jima, my job was simply to be there with the men.

“The main problem I faced was figuring out when to pray with the men. I wondered if they thought that by my praying, that I thought that they were going to die.

“After that first day on the beach, I didn’t have any inhibitions about praying with the men. They didn’t need too much coaxing.”

On the fourth day of battle, Galbreath was also among those who saw the flag raising at the summit of the mountain.



Cpl. Dylan Kilgore

Former Navy Chaplain John Galbreath vividly remembers the flag raising atop Mt. Suribachi. “I saw a small group of men winding their way up the mountain,” he recalled. “Strangely, they met no opposition on their way up the mountain.”

“I saw a small group of men winding their way up the mountain.

“Strangely, they met no opposition on their way up the hill,” he explained. “Soon after, they made it to the top. We saw the flag go up and fireworks just went off everywhere.

“Ships were firing their cannons and everything.

“That was only the fourth day, though, there was still another month of fighting, dying and killing before the battle was over.”

Galbreath spoke of the seriousness of the Marines and Sailors as they went into battle.

“You didn’t know what to expect. You just went out there and did what you had to do. Even after all of the training, there was still nothing you could ever do to be prepared for what it was like.”

MILITARY BLOTTER

Traffic Court

There were a total of 56 traffic citations issued the week ending March 9 and 38 traffic citations issued the week ending March 16.

The Blotter

(For the week ending March 9.)

-A Marine was arrested by the Honolulu Police Department for harassment, then processed and held on \$100 bail.

-A Marine reported a larceny of private property of two compact disks from his vehicle.

-In separate incidents, three Marines were involved in traffic accidents while backing and failing to maintain sufficient distance from a second vehicle.

-A military family member reported damage to private property, after she no-

ticed that her vehicle had sustained numerous scratches on the driver's side door.

-A military family member reported a hit and run traffic accident.

-A Marine reported damage to private property, after he noticed a scratch on the driver's side fender of his vehicle.

-A Marine reported a hit and run traffic accident.

-A Marine was arrested by HPD for driving under the influence and processed and held on \$500 bail.

-A Sailor was involved in a traffic accident when losing control of his motorcycle.

(For the week ending March 16.)

-A Marine was arrested by HPD for DUI, then processed and held on \$500 bail.

-A military family member was apprehended by the Military Police

Department for larceny of private property.

-A Marine was involved in a traffic accident while backing and failing to maintain sufficient distance from a civilian's vehicle.

-A Marine reported a hit and run traffic accident after his vehicle had been struck by an unknown person or vehicle.

-A Marine was involved in a traffic accident while traveling and failing to maintain sufficient distance from a fire hydrant.

-A Marine was apprehended for damage to private property,

Lost and Found

If you're missing valuables or other items, contact the Military Police Department's Lost and Found to see if anyone has turned in the item(s) at the Military Police Desk.

Lost items on hand include bicycles, wallets, keys, cell phones and miscellaneous jewelry.

Call Cpl. Fernandez at 257-2103, ext. 325, for prompt assistance.

Crime Prevention

Do you have questions about how you can take a stance against crime in your neighborhood? If so, contact Cpl. Gordon Scott at 257-2103, ext. 315, for tips on how not to become a victim.

Neighborhood Watch

Crime Prevention is looking for neighborhood watch representatives to get involved in their communities by taking charge of local neighborhoods.

If you're interested, call Crime Prevention at 257-2103, ext. 315, and make a difference.

CMC, From A-1

future transformations that will bring the Corps into the 21st century.

The last stop on the commandant's trip was at the Iwo Jima Monument at the H-3 gate. Here, Gen. Jones reenlisted 13 Hawaii Marines.

"We have to be proud of the Marines behind us, taking us into the 21st century," said the commandant after having sworn in these Marines.

In nearly six hours, the commandant made a whirlwind tour of the base, speaking to nearly all of the base personnel and making six different stops at various base locations.

"I want to personally express my appreciation and respects to each of you and to your people for supporting the commandant's visit in such superb fashion," commented Brig. Gen. McAbee.

"I don't think the base has ever looked better or have our people ever looked sharper and more professional.

"General Jones was extremely pleased and impressed with all he saw and heard. While he was profoundly proud of the base and all the wonderful initiatives underway to better support our people, he was even more proud of the Marines, Sailors, civilian Marines and families he met. They truly made his day."



Lance Cpl. Jason E. Miller

Base Safety received the Excellence Award from the commandant.

SAFETY, From A-1

Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. A. L. McMichael both attended the ceremony and stepped forward to present the award to the Base Safety Center.

"We've really accomplished something here," said Bo Irvine, director of base safety. "It feels overwhelming to have the commandant present this award to us. It lends credence to the award, and

the commandant's personal commitment to safety."

The Base Safety Center's mission is to provide a safe and healthful environment for all personnel working, living and visiting MCB Hawaii.

The center does this by helping to enhance mission readiness and reducing or eliminating injuries, equipment and property damage. The center also works to increase morale and quality of

life aboard the base.

Nearly every unit on the base sent Marines and Sailors to stand in the formation and to watch the presentation of the award and the speech that was given by the commandant.

"We got this award because of everyone's commitment," said Irvine. "It was definitely something that took effort from the entire base and community."

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EVERY CLIME AND PLACE

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Veterans recall one of the Corps’ bloodiest battles

Lance Cpl. John Hoellwarth
31st MEU Public Affairs

IWO JIMA, Japan — Marines and Sailors of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit joined in commemorating the 57th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima with more than 120 veterans who once served here.

A visit by Gen. James L. Jones, commandant of the Marine Corps, and Sgt. Maj. Alford L. McMichael, sergeant major of the Marine Corps, highlighted the ceremony, which reflected one of the Corps’ bloodiest battles.

“Looking back after 57 years, the magnitude of what they did here is no less remarkable. We cannot and will not forget the incredible character and courage demonstrated on this island so far from anywhere else.

Tragically, the Battle of Iwo Jima produced more than 25,000 American casualties. Of this number, more than 6,000 Marines lost their lives.

For the veterans in attendance, the ceremony offered them a good reason to revisit the tiny Japanese island, the place where they made their mark on World War II.

The ceremony was just as important to the Marines who had come here for the first time, as it gave them an opportunity to make their pilgrimage to the ‘Marine Corps’ Mecca’ and meet the men whose deeds remain legendary and are taught to every recruit who desires to earn the title ‘Marine.’

Lieutenant Gen. Wallace C. Gregson, commanding general, III Marine



Lance Cpl. Kenji Szczepanski

Japanese swordsmen perform a Kendo demonstration during the commemoration ceremony for the 57th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima. Marines and Sailors of the 31st MEU (stationed at Okinawa, Japan) and Essex Amphibious Ready Group (from Sasebo, Japan) visited the island March 14 to support the event.

Expeditionary Force, said he was glad his young Marines had the chance to set foot on the shores of the island where the title ‘Marine’ was truly forged under fire. “It’s good to bring younger Marines here to walk around the grounds they’ve only read about in history books.”

While this was the first visit for many Marines, young and old, it was also the first time many of the veterans had the chance to return. Iwo Jima is now a closed Japanese naval base. It is inaccessible to most civilians, except for rare government-sanctioned visits which are limited.

Though it only took 36 days for three Marine divisions to wrestle Iwo Jima from Japanese hands, it has taken some of the veterans 57 years to return to the island where so many of their fellow Marines gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Former Marine Pfc. Bill Hudson, who was merely 19 when he first landed here, said coming back to the island was simply ‘the right thing to do as a Marine.’

“Coming back is a physical, mental and emotional experience. But, it’s one thing I’m glad I did. I’m still a Marine, and I’m proud of it,” said Hudson, who anxiously ran up to the top of Mount

Suribachi, a 550-foot volcanic crater that sheltered a large sum of Japanese troops.

According to Hudson, it only took 20 minutes for him and his family to run up the mountain.

Tears filled the eyes of many veterans who listened to the remarks of Retired Marine Maj. Gen. Fred Haynes, who spoke of the whole Iwo Jima experience.

He was a 24-year-old Marine captain when he joined the 28th Marine Regiment. His unit fought its way up Mount Suribachi and subsequently raised the American flag high atop it.

Now at age 81, Haynes said the Battle of Iwo Jima has never left his mind.

“I think of this battle everyday. Even though I was in two more wars, Korea and Vietnam, all I think about is Iwo Jima,” he said.

Haynes also commented that he is very impressed with what the Marine Corps has become and with the caliber of today’s Marines who worked hard to make the ceremony possible.

Along with the Marines of MCB Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan, Marines and Sailors of the Essex Amphibious Ready Group — sitting off shore — provided additional support.

“Every time Marines come here, they grab some sand as a souvenir,” said Lance Cpl. Tony W. Barr, a Javelin rocket system operator for the MEU’s ground combat element. “But when you think about it, the veterans we’re here to recognize had to fight with everything they had for every single grain of this stuff.

“I think that every Marine who fought here deserves the Medal of Honor.”